精霊の守り人

SEIREI NO MORIBITO

GUARDIAN OF THE SACRED SPIRIT

BY: FUJIWARA KAMUI

CHAPTER 1: BALSA, THE FEMALE BODYGUARD

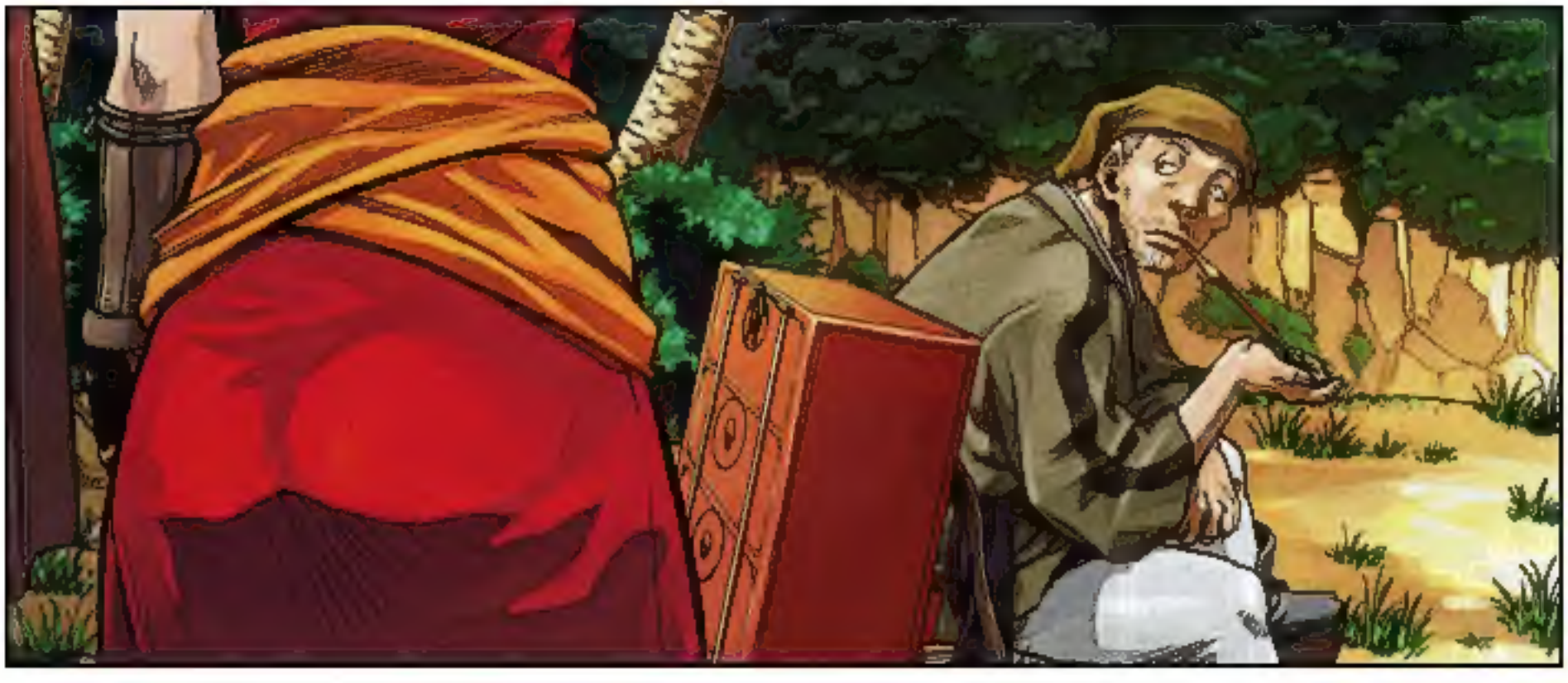
FLY, NAHJI, FLY!

IF YOU FLY TO THE SEA,

RAIN WILL FALL, AND THE EARS OF RICE WILL GROW AND GROW...

NEW YOGO EMPIRE

YOGO'S A FINE PLACE. IT MAKES ONE FEEL AT PEACE...



FEMALE WARRIORS ARE RARE...

FROM THE LOOKS OF YOU, I'D SAY YOU'RE FROM KANBAL...

HM? NOT FRIENDLY, ARE YOU... OR ARE YOU MUTE?

OOF.

SFX: ROAR

SFX: CREAK CTREAK

IT'S THE LONG AUTUMN RAINS... THE RIVER'S SWOLLEN..

IT'S THE SECOND PALACE'S OXCART...

...

UH-OH ...

HEY! YOU...

THAT BANNER... IT MUST BE THE SECOND PRINCE AND HIS ENTOURAGE. THEY MUST BE RETURNING TO THE IMPERIAL CITY FROM THEIR MOUNTAIN VILLA.

I HAVE NO OBLI-GATION TOWARDS THEM...

I'M NOT FROM HERE.

SFX: MOOOO

!

MOOO

SFX: GAGAGA

SFX: CRASH

SFX: GYAGYAGYA (WHEELS GRATING)

SFX: THUD

SFX: GAKUN (COLLAPSE)

SFX: GIGIGIGI (TOPPLING)

AAAH!

PEOPLE... DAMN!

SHURU (UNWINDING ROPE)

SFX: GARAGARAGARA (COLLAPSE/FALL)

SFX: SUCHA (EQUIPPING)

スチャ..

SFX: BUN (THROW)

SFX: GUI (TUG)

SFX: GA (JAB)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

SFX: ZABA (DIVE)

SFX: GYUN (ROPE SNAPPING TIGHT)

SFX BUBBLE: BUHA (GASP)

SFX BUBBLES: HAA HAA (PANT/GASP)

SFX: GOO (ROAR)

THERE HE IS..

SFX: ROAR

SFX: ZABA (DIVE)

DAMN...

WHAT?!

THE CURRENT...

SFX· GYUN (FAST MOTION)

SFX: DODODO (ROAR)

AH!!

BUHA

SFX: DODODO (ROAR)

GOOD... LOOKS LIKE HE FAINTED RIGHT AWAY... HE DIDN'T SWALLOW ANY WATER

HAA HAA HAA HAA

COUGH COUGH

GUI

SFX: ZAA (ROAR)

YOUR HIGHNESS!!

THE WAY SHE MOVED... THERE'S NO MISTAKE; THAT'S THE FAMOUS FEMALE BODYGUARD...

WHAT THE HELL...?

BALSA THE SPEARWIELDER!!

NOT AT ALL... THIS HARDLY REPAYS YOU FOR HAVING SAVED THE PRINCE'S LIFE.

EVEN THOUGH THIS WONDERFUL FEAST WAS PROBABLY WASTED ON SOMEONE AS LOWLY AS MYSELF.

I THOR-OUGHLY ENJOYED THIS MEAL.

THE SECOND EMPRESS HERSELF HAS REQUESTED THAT YOU SPEND THE NIGHT IN THE PALACE.

SFX: CLATTER

PLEASE TELL HER MAJESTY THAT I AM GRATEFUL ENOUGH FOR THE FEAST.

NO... THAT WOULD BE IMPOSING ON YOUR GENEROUS HOSPITALITY FAR TOO MUCH.

BALSA-DONO... PLEASE, DO AS WE ASK..

NO, NO...

SFX. WHISPER WHISPER

BECAUSE OF WHO YOU ARE, THERE'S SOMETHING WE'D LIKE TO ASK OF YOU...

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...HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?!

THERE WAS A MERCHANT ON TORIKAGE BRIDGE AT THE SAME TIME AS YOU..

DO YOU NOT REMEMBER?

FORGIVE US, BUT WE HAVE ALREADY LOOKED INTO YOUR BACK-GROUND.

IT'S SAID THAT EVERY SINGLE MERCHANT IN THESE PARTS KNOWS YOUR NAME...

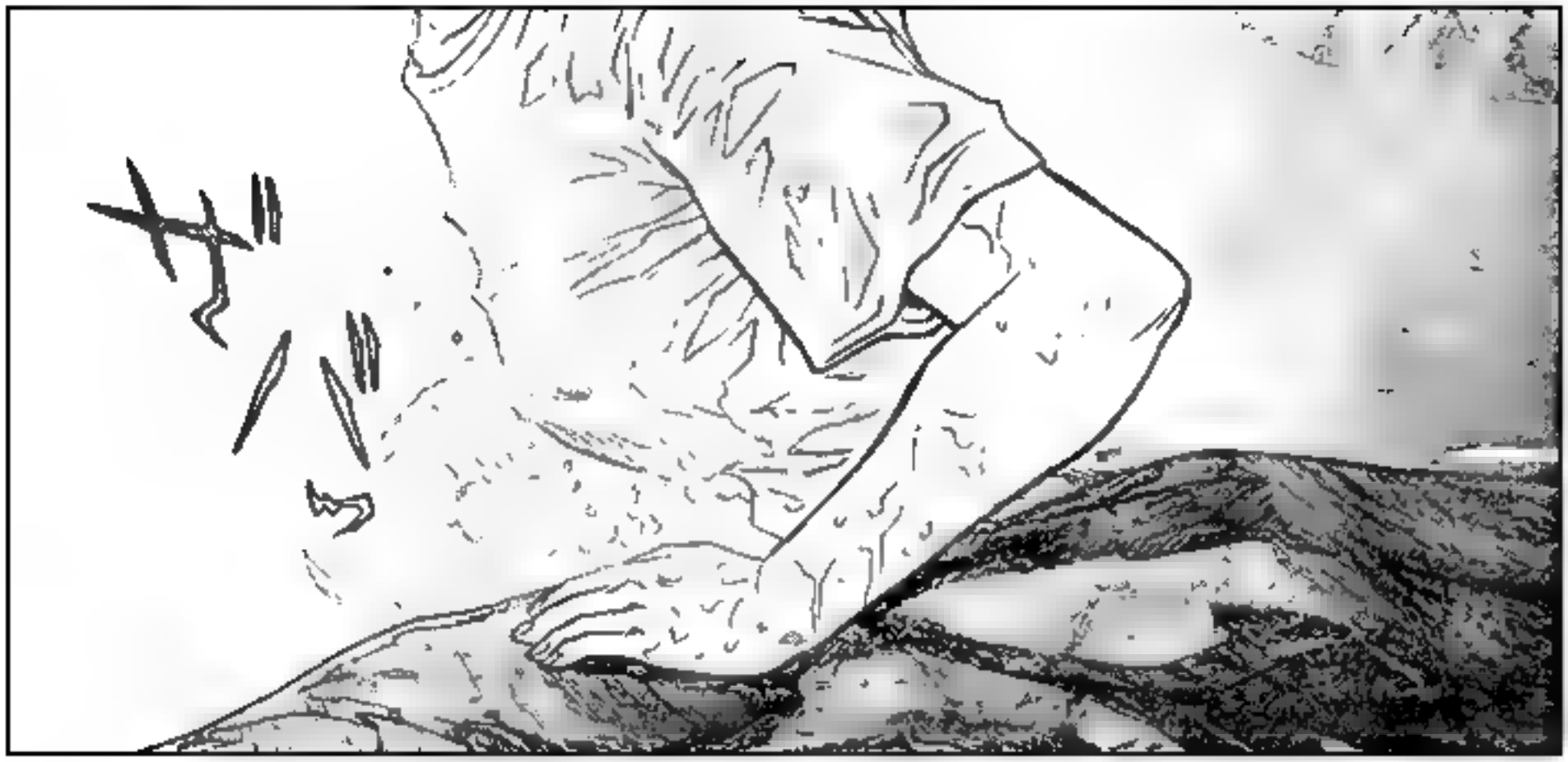
YA!

THE BATHS HERE ARE HEAVENLY! YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR TIME AND ENJOY THEM -- IT'LL BE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER...

NOW, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR REQUEST.

THUMP

SFX: ZABA (WATER SOUND)



SFX: ZABA (WATER)

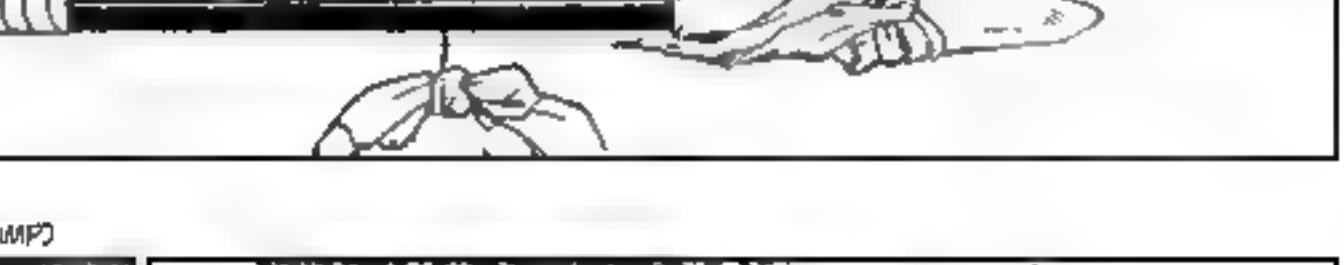
I GUESS NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE SO CAREFREE...

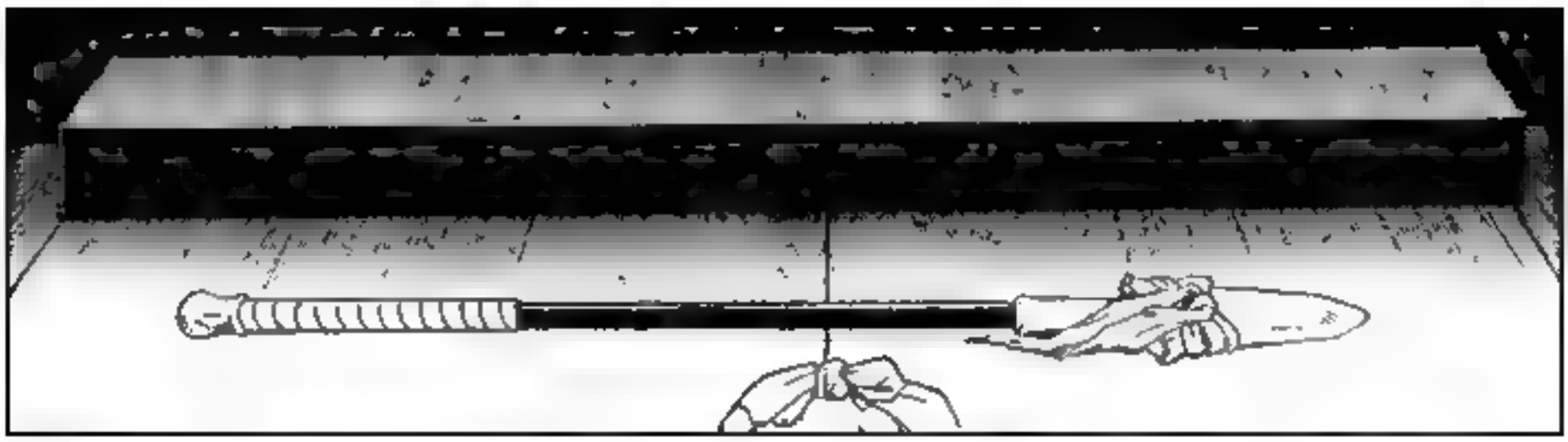
UP ABOVE, THE HEAVENS ARE FULL OF STARS... AND BELOW THEM LIES THE LIGHT OF THE LIVING. WHAT A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT.

IN THE RIVER...

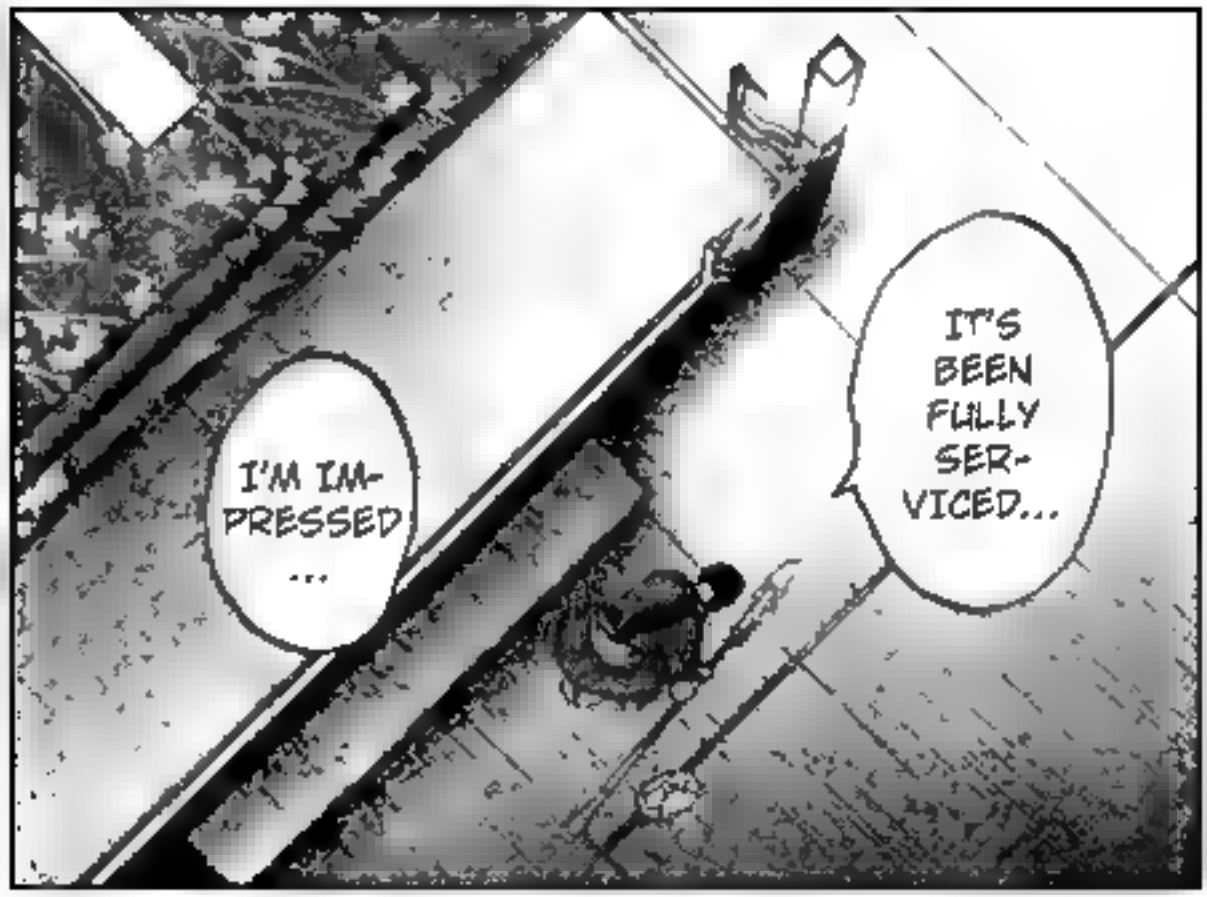
I WONDER WHAT WAS GOING ON.

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, IT FELT AS THOUGH THE VERY CURRENT HAD STOPPED.





SFX: BAFU (THUMP)



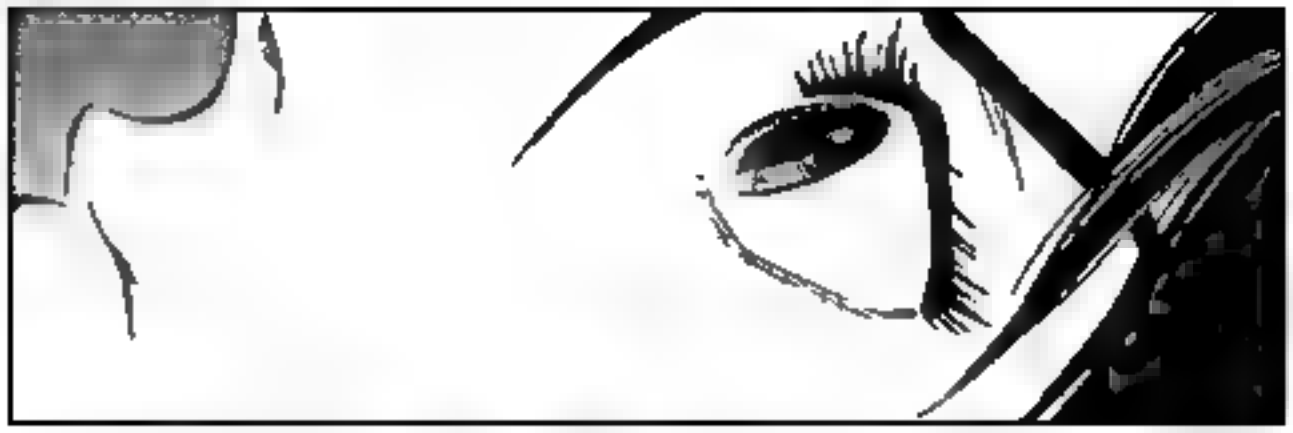
I WONDER IF THE REASON THESE PEOPLE SEEM WORLDS APART FROM US IS BECAUSE THEY SLEEP ON BEDS LIKE THIS EVERY NIGHT.

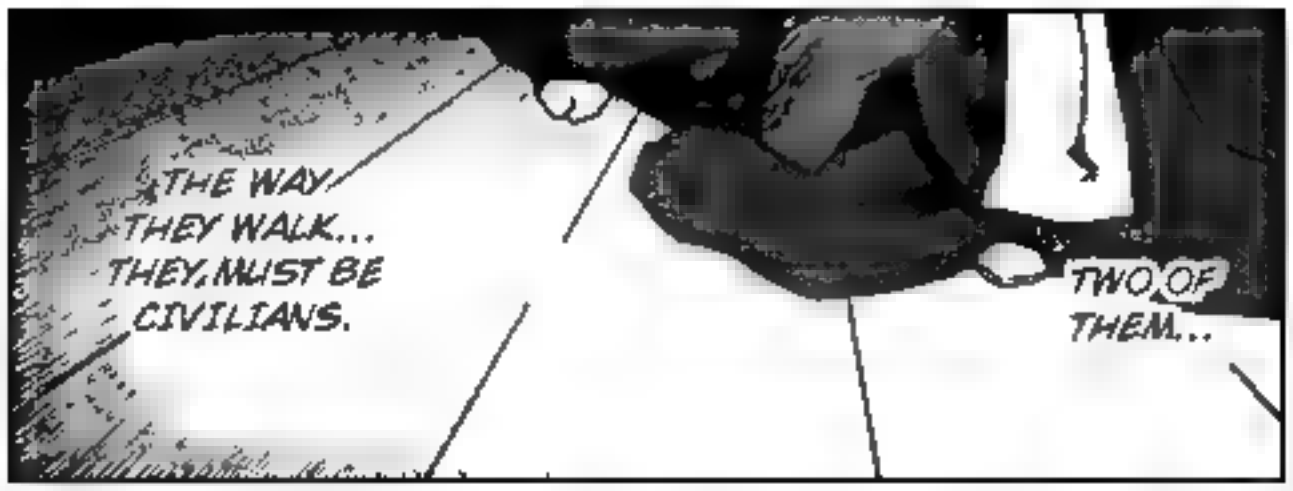
MMM

SIGH

SFX BUBBLE (INSECTS): CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP

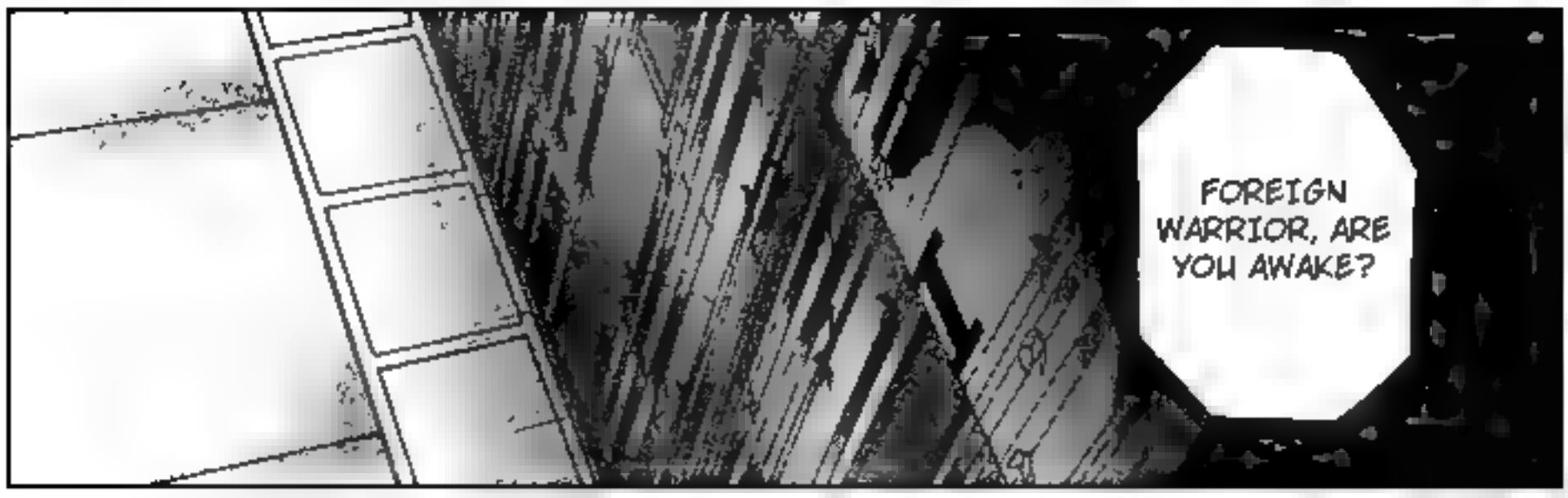
???




THE WAY THEY WALK... THEY MUST BE CIVILIANS.
TWO OF THEM...

CREAK

CREAK


FOREIGN WARRIOR, ARE YOU AWAKE?

I AM.
PLEASE,
ENTER.

SFX BUBBLE: SH (MOVING)

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THE SECOND PRINCE... THEN... THIS WOMAN MUST BE THE SECOND EMPRESS...!!

BUT YOU... YOU DID WELL...

THANK YOU FOR SAVING THE PRINCE TODAY... YOU DOVE INTO THE TURBULENT WATERS FROM THAT HIGH BRIDGE WITHOUT HESITATION... EVEN A MAN WOULD HAVE THOUGHT TWICE.

AT SUCH A LATE HOUR.

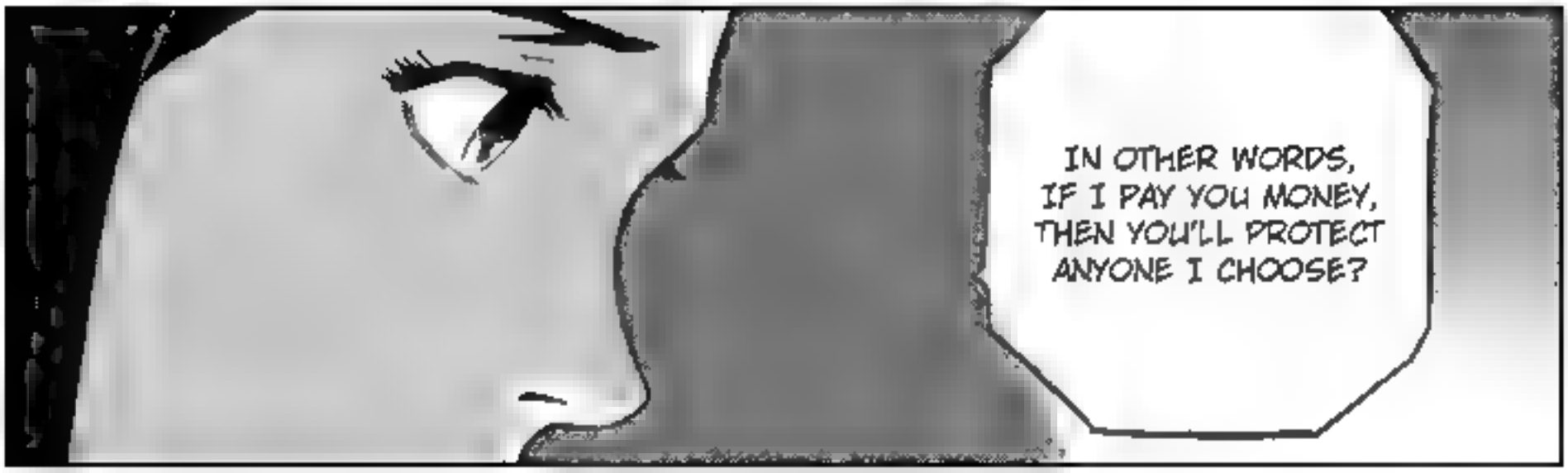
YOU MUST BE WONDERING WHY WE HAVE COME TO YOU...

.....

RAISE YOUR HEAD, BALSA...

THEY SAID THAT YOU PROTECT LIVES FOR A LIVING DESPITE BEING A WOMAN... THAT YOU'RE A WANDERER WHO RESEMBLES THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTANT NORTHERN KINGDOM OF KANBAL... THAT YOU SPEAK EVERY SINGLE LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN THESE LANDS, AND THAT YOU HAVE SAVED MANY LIVES WITH THAT SPEAR...

AS COMMONERS WOULD PUT IT, I AM A BODYGUARD... I AM HIRED TO PROTECT OTHERS FOR MONEY.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THOSE STORIES HAVE ALL BEEN GLORIFIED...


IN OTHER WORDS, IF I PAY YOU MONEY, THEN YOU'LL PROTECT ANYONE I CHOOSE?

WELL, NO...
CRAP...

IF I FAIL, I PAY WITH MY OWN LIFE.
SIMPLY PUT, THAT IS INDEED THE CASE... BUT SUCCESS IS NOT GUARANTEED...

WHY DO YOU RISK YOUR LIFE TO EARN MONEY THROUGH SUCH WORK?

SFX: CHIRA (GLANCE)

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IF I WERE TO BEGIN TELLING MY STORY, IT WOULD BE DAWN BEFORE I FINISHED...

……

MOST LIKELY, THE EMPRESS WANTS ME TO BE THE PRINCE'S BODYGUARD... HERE IN THE NEW YOGO EMPIRE, THE EMPEROR WEDS THREE EMPRESSES. THE EMPRESS WHO FIRST GIVES BIRTH TO A PRINCE BECOMES THE FIRST EMPRESS.

BALSA..

BUT I MUST MAKE HER UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S ALL A DELUSION, A MISUNDERSTANDING...

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW AND JUST WHAT THE EMPRESS HEARD...

AND THE EMPRESS WHO GIVES BIRTH TO THE SECOND PRINCE BECOMES THE SECOND EMPRESS...

RIGHT NOW, THE EMPIRE ONLY HAS TWO PRINCES.

THE THIRD EMPRESS HAS YET TO BEAR A PRINCE...

THERE PROBABLY IS SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS GOING ON IN THE PALACE DUE TO SUCCESSION ISSUES OR SOME SUCH...

!!

BECAUSE OF YOUR SKILLS, I HAVE A REQUEST TO MAKE. I CAME HERE TONIGHT PREPARED TO PART WITH THIS CHILD FOREVER.

I BEG OF YOU!! I DO NOT CARE WHERE YOU CHOOSE TO FLEE,

BUT PLEASE PROTECT THIS CHILD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE FROM HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S ASSASSINS!!

THE EMPEROR'S ASSASSINS?!

TWO WEEKS AGO, HE ALSO NEARLY LOST HIS LIFE WHEN BOILING HOT WATER SUDDENLY ERUPTED IN THE BATHS AT THE MOUNTAIN VILLA.

... YOU SAW THE OXCART FALL TODAY...

THAT IS WHAT THEY ALL SAY AT FIRST... BUT THAT'S BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW WHY THIS CHILD'S LIFE IS IN DANGER.

BUT WHY WOULD THE EMPEROR WISH THE PRINCE DEAD?! WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, PERHAPS THE REPEATED ACCIDENTS WERE JUST A COINCI-DENCE...

ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO WHEN WE WERE IN THE MOUNTAIN VILLA...

NO!!

THEN, AS I SUSPECTED, THERE IS A SUCCESSION ISSUE OR SOME OTHER--

IT BEGAN ...

THE CHILD BEGAN TO HAVE NIGHTMARES EVERY NIGHT...

AND ALWAYS THE SAME NIGHTMARE...

AS DAYS WENT BY, THE DREAM BECAME MORE THAN A DREAM... HE EVEN BEGAN SLEEPWALKING...

SO MANY DAYS PASSED THUS... THAT I ASKED AN INDIVIDUAL OF CERTAIN TRAINING TO INVESTIGATE.

HE SAID THAT SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS HAD POSSESSED THE CHILD...

WHAT?!

HE SAID THAT THE CHILD IS POSSESSED BY A BEING NOT OF THIS WORLD...

THE SECOND EMPRESS' CRY OF GRIEF... WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE PRINCE?!

TMI-SCANS PRESENTS
SEIREI NO MORIBITO
GUARDIAN OF THE SACRED SPIRIT
BY: FUJIWARA KAMUI

CLEANERS:
VATO LOCO!
ALLASHANDRA
CHARMED BUTTERCUP
AMATERASU
ELITELINK
CHIRESAKURA

TRANSLATOR:
RUNPSICAT

PROOFREADER:
BELLE STARLIA

精霊の守り人

SEIREI NO MORIBITO

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